



U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

2011 Spring Storm Report # 7

May 1, 2011 (10:00am EDT)

http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/emergency_sit_rpt.aspx

Summary

Electricity		
Impacted State	Electric Customer Outages	% of State Out
Alabama	455,534	18%
Arkansas	2,683	<1%
Georgia	6,841	<1%
Tennessee	38,870	1%
TOTAL:	503,928	

Note:

States with less than 1,000 outages are not included in the tables.

Due to a large number of service providers, including investor owned utilities and cooperatives, the number of customer outages reported may not be comprehensive.

Sources:

Outages obtained from company web sites and DOE communications.

Total State customers are based on 2008 EIA Customer Data.

Highlights:

- Beginning Wednesday April 27, 2011, severe storms with heavy rain, hail, and tornadoes impacted States in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern regions. As of 9:00 am EDT, May 1, 2011, the impacted States report a total of 503,928 customers without power. This is an increase from the 466,867 customers reported in yesterday afternoon's Situation Report #6. This is due to inclusion of municipal and cooperative electric customer outages in Alabama that were not previously available. Restoration efforts by electric utilities are reported below.

ESF 12 Actions:

- ESF-12 is staffing the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, DC and the Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) in Atlanta, GA.

Restoration Activities:

- The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reported Saturday evening (April 30) that 85 connections have been restored between TVA and its direct and distributor customers. The storm had affected a total of 128 of these connections. TVA still estimates that it will restore service to a majority of its customers by early next week. The company has 4,000 employees and contractors working on power restoration including repairing the over 200 poles or steel structures that were damaged by the storm.

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- The storm caused all three nuclear reactor units at the TVA owned Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Alabama to shut down on April 27th. The units were automatically and safely shut down after offsite transmission lines serving the plant were damaged. All three units have achieved cold shutdown. TVA continues to power the plant using onsite diesel generators and one 161 kV transmission line.
- Huntsville Utilities expects minimal restoration ability to begin tomorrow evening (May 2). There are 450 Huntsville employees and crews from Florida, Tennessee, and South Alabama in the field working to restore power. The utility reported April 29 that it may take 4-6 days to complete full restoration for all of its customers.
- Alabama Power has a total of 8,670 personnel, including crews from eighteen States, working to restore electricity to its customers. The company estimates that 95 percent of their customers will be restored by Wednesday (May 4). In its service area, the storm damaged 3,000 poles and 380 transmission structures and destroyed five substations.
- EPB Chattanooga reports that there are 1,440 personnel restoring power to its customers. The company still estimates that it might not be able to restore power to all of its customers until Thursday (May 5).
- Entergy estimates that all of its customers in Mississippi that can accept power will be restored today (May 1). In Mississippi the storm damaged 170 poles, 80 transformers, and 115 cross arms.
- AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), which serves Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, completed restoration for 99 percent of its customers yesterday (April 30).
- Georgia Power expects to have full restoration of all its customers by late tonight (May 1). The company had 500 poles damaged by the storm.
- The Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, a statewide trade association representing the State's 42 EMCs, reports more than 300 utility personnel are assisting EMCs in north and central Georgia to restore power. Restoration is complete in the Atlanta area but the heaviest hit areas may not be restored until the end of the day Sunday (May 1).